

Profile of a Tuli
Last of a Vanis
See Pages 14-15



ONE ECONOMIC PROPOSAL THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

It's misguided.

White House economic planners are moving to make drastic changes in a program that's vital to a strong rural economy and essential to meeting the nation's electric power needs. The plan is being sold in the name of cutting the federal budget.

The truth is that the proposed changes in the Rural Electrification Administration loan program would not reduce the federal budget or curb inflation — the stated goals of the White House.

They would force America's rural electric co-operatives to pay higher interest rates for borrowed capital. In turn, this would inflate the electric rates of millions of rural people who already pay an average of 12% more for electricity than their urban neighbors.

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Rural electric systems, since 1973, have obtained needed capital through the REA-

insured and guaranteed loan programs. All funds come from sources completely outside the federal budget.

In commenting on the proposed changes in this highly-successful program, the Congressional Budget Office said, "None of the savings will affect the budget of the United States, nor the on-budget deficit."

The White House proposal for REA doesn't make sense.



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Mr. Stockman's "Weird" Economics

This editorial was written by Leland G. Ulmer, executive vice president of the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Co-ops, for that organization's statewide publication North Dakota REC Magazine.

As we watch our state and national governments, let's not forget that what is done or not done is important to us.

A gentleman by the name of David Stockman heads the federal Office of Management and Budget. It is quite unfortunate that we know quite a bit about him and he quite obviously knows very little about rural

electrification or rural telephony. And we don't fault him for his lack of knowledge. We are, however, beginning to ruffle a bit at his rather obvious refusal to listen to us and involve himself and his agents in learning something about you and your needs.

His Mind's Made Up

Mr. Stockman now might be labelled as one of those of whom we would say, "Don't bother him with the facts, his mind is made up."

We are all conservatives. We rather

wish that government could leave us alone, reduce taxes, stop messing up the money and, perhaps, stop horsing around with our schools. "Conservative" to us seems to fit rural life and consists of thrift, industry, produce, moderation and restraint. These are good qualities and pretty well define the citizens of this state. Thus we do indeed identify with Mr. Stockman and others in Washington.

We aren't quarreling about the objective. We must, however, respectfully object to the method and manner.

If Mr. Stockman's efforts to obliterate the Rural Electrification Administration program would result in reducing the federal budget or deficit or accomplish any of the things now needed, we would have a much different view.

Proposal Would Compound Problems

The hard, indisputable facts lead us to conclude that Mr. Stockman and his OMB simply do not have the facts in hand on REA. They have targeted us for reasons unknown to us and, if their efforts are successful, the end result will only compound the problems they seek to resolve. In fact, it will reduce income to the government.

Of course, your rural electric and telephone rates will increase substantially. This increase is not a "patriotic" thing and the additional payments will not aid the deficit or resolve the budget. You'll just pay more, that's all.

And we think that is rather weird economics and certainly not conservative or practical....

PASSING SCENE



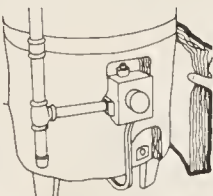
These "Rules to Live By" were written more than a century ago by the noted Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson, but their message is just as timely in 1981:

1. Make up your mind to be happy—learn to find pleasure in simple things.
2. Make the best of circumstances. No one has everything, and everyone has something of sorrow.
3. Don't take yourself too seriously.
4. Don't let criticism worry you—you can't please everybody.
5. Don't let your neighbors set your standards—be yourself.
6. Do things you enjoy doing, but stay out of debt.
7. Don't borrow trouble. Imaginary things are harder to bear than actual ones.
8. Since hate poisons the soul, do not cherish enmities and grudges. Avoid people who make you unhappy.
9. Have many interests. If you can't travel, read about places.
10. Don't hold post-mortems or spend time brooding over sorrows or mistakes.
11. Don't be the one who never gets over things.
12. Keep busy at something. A very busy person never has time to be unhappy.

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Carolina Country

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N.C. EMC Names Power Supply Chief

An electrical engineer with five years' experience as manager of an electric cooperative has been named manager of power supply for the generating and transmission cooperative serving North Carolina Electric Membership Corporations.

John P. Kutter, a Richmond, Ind., native who has degrees in both engineering and business administration, assumed the post with North Carolina EMC effective April 8.



Kutter joined N.C. EMC after a brief stint as director of operations at Wabash Valley Generating and Transmission

cooperative, a power supply system serving 24 distribution co-ops in northern Indiana.

At the Indianapolis-based co-op, he was directly involved in the installation of a load management system to automatically reduce power use during periods of peak demand.

From 1976 to 1980, he served as manager of Thumb Electric Cooperative in Ubly, Michigan, a system serving 9,500 consumer-members.

While at the Michigan co-op, Kutter served as chairman of the Michigan Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, an alliance of 13 co-ops and two generating and transmission operations.

He received his engineering degree from the University of

Dayton in 1963 and his master's degree in business administration from the same institution in 1974.

At N.C. EMC, he will direct the overall power supply activities of North Carolina's statewide organization of electric co-ops.

N.C. EMC, which serves 27 of the Tar Heel EMCs, recently completed the purchase of a share in Duke Power Company's Catawba Nuclear Station as the first step in a long-range plan for establishing an independent power supply system for the co-ops.

Kutter is married to the former Kathleen Holthouse of Richmond Ind. They have two daughters and a son.

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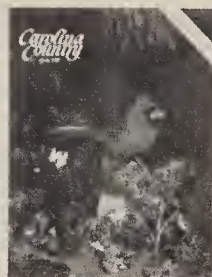
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Cover Reprints



Through a special arrangement with noted wildlife photographer John Trott, we are now offering reprints of the outstanding photo of a male cardinal that graced the cover of the April *Carolina Country*.

The photo, which appeared in the book *Birds of the Carolinas*, is reprinted in the size of the magazine, with a white border on heavy 1" by 14" glossy finish stock. They're priced at \$4 each, including postage charges. Use the coupon below to order your copy.

Mail orders to **Cardinal Photo, Dept. 10, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611**

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Here/There/Everywhere/Here/There/E

Spring Event Set For May 30 in New Bern

The 1981 A"Spring Arts and Colonial Living Day" in New Bern has been scheduled for May 30.

Activities for the day include tours of several historical homes, a performance of a play, demonstrations by colonial craftsmen, and a "create-in" especially for children.

For additional information about the event, write to the Craven Community Arts Council, Box 596, New Bern, 28560.

Directors Re-elected At Four EMCs

Twelve incumbents have been elected to the Boards of Directors of four North Carolina Electric Membership Corporations during recent EMC annual meetings:

- **Edgecombe-Martin County EMC**, Tarboro— Re-elected were H. M. Britt Jr. of Rt. 4, Tarboro; Noel Lee, Jr. of Rt. 3, Washington and M. V. Scott of Pinetops.

Cover Image From Outer Banks Book

This haunting coastal sunset was photographed by Gene Furr, an award-winning photographer for the *Raleigh News and Observer* and *The Raleigh Times*. It appeared in *Images: The Outer Banks*, a new book featuring Furr's photos and a text by Cameron (Ronnie) McRae, wire editor of the *Concord Tribune*.

The 96-page hardcover volume was designed by Mark Dearmon, a photographer for N.C. State University's Visual Communications section.

The book is available in bookstores across the state, but may be ordered directly from Cinehaus Productions, 604 Tinkerbell Road, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514. It's priced at \$25. Add \$1 for sales tax on mail orders.

- **South River EMC**, Dunn— Re-elected were Kyle Harrington of Rt. 1, Broadway; Harvey Flowers of Rt. 2, Four Oaks and Leroy Autry of Rt. 2, Autryville.

- **Jones-Onslow EMC**, Jacksonville— Re-elected were Archie Horne of Rt. 2, Beulaville; H. G. Phillips of Jacksonville and Hugh L. Batts of Rt. 1, Hampstead.

- **Wake EMC**, Wake Forest— Re-elected were Roy Ed Jones, Jr. of Rt. 3, Wake Forest; Roger L. Moss of Rt. 1, Kittrell and Russell L. Peele of Rt. 1, Middlesex.

Three Tar Heels Get National Posts

Three North Carolinians have been appointed to the National Extension Committee of the U.S. Agriculture's Joint Council on Food and Agricultural Sciences.

They are L. F. Amburn of Edenton, publisher of the *Chowan Herald* and chairman of the N.C. Agricultural Extension Advisory Council; Daniel D. Godfrey of Greensboro, extension administrator at N.C. A&T State University; and Leigh H. Hammond of Raleigh, a member of the State Utilities Commission.

Child Safety in Cars Subject of "Tot Line"

The University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center in Chapel Hill is operating a Toll-Free "Tot Line" each weekday, providing current information on techniques for assuring child safety in vehicles.

Through the telephone service, the center's staff assists parents in selecting safe restraining equipment for their children and arranges for the distribution of brochures on the subject of child safety in automobiles through health and social service agencies.

Civic clubs and other groups who're interested in arranging for speakers or films on this subject are also encouraged to use the

telephone line, which generally operates from 8 to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The number is 800-672-4527.

Denton Youth Awarded N.C. AEC Scholarship

Edward Glenn Echerd, son of Mrs. Deanna Echerd of Denton, has been awarded the first Youth Tour scholarship sponsored by the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives (N.C. AEC) and the women's committees of local co-ops across the state.



Echerd, who participated in the N.C. AEC-sponsored Youth Tour to Washington last summer, received a

\$1,000 scholarship at the 1981 Annual Meeting of the Statewide organization of Electric Membership Corporations.

For additional coverage of the statewide meeting, see Pages 8-11.

A senior at Denton High School, Echerd has been accepted at N.C. State University for the fall semester. He plans to study math and science education.

Earlier, he had been selected to attend a special seminar at the Smithsonian Institution May 3-8, which is sponsored by N.C. AEC, with assistance from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation in Winston-Salem.

The Echerds are served by Davidson EMC, Lexington.

Oops!

We must give credit where credit is due:

The review of *The Magical Realm of Sallie Middleton* in the "Books" column of the April *Carolina Country* was written by Jean McCamy of Wake Forest. It was incorrectly credited to Frank Jeter Jr. of Raleigh, a frequent contributor to the column.

Six Businesses Get Governor's Awards

Six North Carolina businesses have been cited for their support of the arts and humanities by Gov. James B. Hunt Jr.

Receiving the Governor's Business Awards in the Arts and Humanities were: Burroughs Wellcome Company, Research Triangle Park; Dillard Paper Company, Greensboro; First Federal Savings and Loan Association, Goldsboro; First Union National Bank, Charlotte; Weyerhaeuser Company, New Bern and R. J. Reynolds Industries, Inc., Winston-Salem.

Seven EMCs Awarded Safety Certificates

Seven North Carolina Electric Membership Corporations have qualified for accreditation of their employee safety programs by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

The EMCs are: Carteret-Craven EMC, Morehead City; Randolph EMC, Asheboro; Davidson EMC, Lexington; Pee Dee EMC, Wadesboro; Pitt and Greene EMC, Farmville; South River EMC, Dunn and Wake EMC, Wake Forest.

Davidson, Pee Dee, Pitt and Greene and Wake EMCs received their accreditation certificates at the 1981 Annual Meeting of the statewide EMC organization. The others were presented earlier.

Energy Conservation Booklet Available

The North Carolina Energy Division is distributing a free booklet on home energy conservation.

More than 10,000 copies of the booklet have been distributed by the state since its first printing in 1978.

The booklet details energy conservation techniques on air conditioning, heating, weatherization, insulation, lighting and water heating.

The booklet titled *Home Energy Conservation — Recommendations for Existing Homes*, can be obtained by writing to the Energy Division, 430 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh, 27611.

REA Loan Goes To French Broad EMC

French Broad Electric Membership Corporation, Marshall, has been awarded a \$2.9 million Rural Electrification Administration loan to finance 70 percent of an expansion project.

The project includes service for 2,100 additional consumers, 130 miles of distribution line and various system improvements.

The remaining 30 percent of the financing will be obtained through the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation.

French Broad EMC now serves about 19,000 consumer-members in Madison, Buncombe, Yancey and Mitchell Counties and two counties in Tennessee.

EMC Consumers Oppose Cuts In Loan Program

Consumer-members of Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation, Tarboro, have taken a public stance as opposing the Reagan administration's proposals for cuts in the Rural Electrification Administration loan programs.

In a resolution adopted at the EMC's annual meeting, the consumers expressed opposition to changes which would either "reduce the amount of insured loan funds available to cooperatives below the amount needed to carry out construction programs," or terminate financing of REA guaranteed loans through the Federal Financing Bank.

Copies of the resolution were sent to President Reagan, Agriculture Secretary John Block, Senators Jesse Helms and John East, and Representatives L. H. Fountain and Walter Jones.

Home Folks

Penelope Sue Smith of Asheboro, a teacher at Asheboro High School, has been named North Carolina Teacher of the Year 1981-82. . . **Franklin M. (Frank) Green**, who has been on the Agricultural Extension Service staff in Rockingham County since 1962, has been named county chairman, succeeding Horace Hux, who retired after 19 years in the post. . . **Ralph H. Scott**, who served for 25 years in the State Senate, and **George E. Norman Jr.**, retired vice president of Burlington Industries, have been awarded the top non-academic honor bestowed by N.C. State University. They were presented with the Watauga Medal at NCSU's recent Founders Day ceremonies. . . **Barbara Deverick**, manager of organizational planning at Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation, Lenoir, has been named career woman of the year by the N.C. Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs. . . **Melissa G. Carson** of Raleigh, who served for the past six years as Cumberland County's supervisor of school food services, has been named consumer relations consultant for the N.C. Soybean Producers Association. . . **Dan Tucker** of Raleigh, who retired recently after five years as State Statistician for the federal-state Crop Reporting Service, has been selected by *The Progressive Farmer* as "Man of the Year in Service to Agriculture" in North Carolina. . . **Dr. Hugh S. Daniel Jr.** of Waynesville has been named 1981 Optometrist of the South by the Southern Council of Optometrists. . . **Dr. Ronald Sneed**, extension biological and agricultural engineering specialist at NCSU, has been named "Irrigation Man of the Year" by the national Irrigation Association.

Dr. Margaret N. Maxey, assistant director of the South Carolina Energy Research Institute, addressing the opening luncheon of the 1981 Annual Meeting of North Carolina's statewide EMC organization. About 400 EMC employees and directors from across the state participated in the meeting in Raleigh, March 25-27.



Proposed Cuts In Loan Program: A Signal That REA May Be Headed For "Complete Phase-Out"

Reagan administration plans that would drive up the operating costs of the nation's electric cooperatives while increasing government aid to investor-owned utilities drew sharp criticism from a featured speaker at the 1981 Annual Meeting of North

Carolina's statewide EMC organization.

Addressing the awards luncheon on the final day of the meeting, Charles Robinson Jr., deputy general manager of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA),

said he is not opposed to increased aid for private utilities, but finds it puzzling in light of proposed cuts in the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) loan programs.



Robinson

"We do not believe that this performance could in any way be categorized as equitable, fair, evenhanded or even reasonable from a public policy standpoint," he said.

"For some reason, the administration apparently intends to treat the investor-owned segment of the utility industry with a great deal more sympathy than it does the rural electric program."

FFB Cut Only For Co-ops

The Reagan administration's proposals would eliminate one of the REA's loan programs and prevent the agency from obtaining funds for co-ops through the Federal Financing Bank, although the bank will continue to serve other government agencies, Robinson explained.

The changes would in no way decrease the size of the federal deficit because the programs are self-contained and self-supporting, drawing no federal tax money, he said adding:

"The total cost to consumers of the present Reagan administration proposals. . . will be about \$6.2 billion

Carolina Country May 1981

Cox Heads N.C. AEC Slate

A veteran director of Halifax Electric Membership Corporation, Enfield, and the managers of Randolph EMC, Asheboro, and Wake EMC, Wake Forest, have been elected to the top leadership posts within the North Carolina Association of Electric

Cooperatives (N.C. AEC)

A.C. Cox Jr., who has served as a director of Halifax EMC for the past three decades, was elected president of the association after serving the organization as secretary-treasurer for the past year.

Randolph EMC Manager Bob L. McDuffie was elected vice president and Wake EMC Manager Earl F. Shoaf was elected secretary-treasurer.

Cox, a retired farmer, stepped down as Halifax EMC's president last May after 23 years in the post.

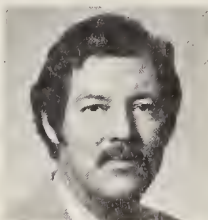
McDuffie, who has been manager at Randolph EMC since April, 1977, was also elected vice president of Tarheel Electric Membership Association.

N.C. AEC is the statewide trade organization for the EMCs, while TEMA is a central purchasing and materials supply operation serving the co-ops. All 28 of the state's EMCs are members of both organizations.

Shoaf, who became Wake EMC manager about a year ago, served as TEMA's manager for three years.



Cox
President



McDuffie
Vice President



Shoaf
Secretary-
Treasurer

over the next 10 years, or roughly \$620 million per year during that period. This prospect, it seems to us, is highly inflationary."

Robinson said the proposals could be interpreted as a signal that the administration has set its sights on "a complete phase-out of all REA loan activities."

The present REA loans program allows co-ops to obtain financing for expansion and new projects at rates that are generally lower than the prevailing rates on the open money market.

As a result, the lower interest costs have allowed co-ops to hold their electric rates to near the same level as the investor-owned companies, even though they operate with a far lower ratio of revenues per mile of line.

Robinson said NRECA is mounting a massive effort to defeat the proposed REA program cuts, and may seek legislation to assure the stability of the REA loan programs.

Consumers Must Speak Out

But, the nation's co-op consumer-members need to express their support of this position.

"The REA financing program will remain available in useful form after the proposed cutoff date of October 1, 1981, only if the majority of the people in rural America believe that it is necessary and desirable —and convince their congressmen and senators that it is needed and that they want it," Robinson said.

(Continued on Page 10)

EMC Women Elect Statewide Officers

Anne Williamson of Rt. 1, Whiteville, a member of the Women's Committee of Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation, has been elected chairman of the statewide women's organization of the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives.

Meanwhile, Beth H. Watson of Rt. 2, Lucama, chairman of the Women's Committee at Tri-County EMC, Goldsboro, was elected vice chairman.

Outgoing chairman Mamie King of Rt. 1, Warrenton, a member of the Women's Committee at Halifax EMC, Enfield, was elected to the board of the National Rural Electric Women's Association.

North Carolina's statewide women's organization is composed of representatives of the state's 10 EMC Women's Committees, which serve as a liaison between the co-ops and their consumer-members in the areas of education and public relations.

The national organization provides a communications link between rural

electric women and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and assists that Washington-based organization in planning programs affecting rural women.



Williamson
Chairman



Watson
Vice Chairman



King
National Board

The REA financing program will remain available in useful form after October 1. . . only if the majority of the people in rural America believe that it is necessary and desirable —and convince their congressmen and senators that it is needed and that they want it.

Managers, Directors Honored For Meritorious Service

Five managers and 28 directors from Electric Membership Corporations across the state were cited for their years of service to rural electrification during the 1981 Annual Meeting of the statewide EMC organization.

Each received a certificate of meritorious service.

The managers were Vernon Taylor of Roanoke EMC, Rich Square and Heyward H. McKinney of Pee Dee EMC, Wadesboro, honored for 40 years' service; Alvin C. Morton, Jones-Onslow EMC, Jacksonville, 35 years' service; Robert Holmes, Tri-County EMC, Goldsboro and Robert G. Hubbard, Brunswick EMC, Shallotte, 30 years' service.

The directors honored, listed by EMCs, were:

Blue Ridge — Thomas Cockerham of Jefferson, Charles C. Edwards of Rt.

1, West Jefferson and P. C. Collins, Jr. of Rt. 1, Laurel Springs, all for 15 years.

Brunswick — Dennis Anderson of Rt. 1, Cerro Gordo, 30 years.

Cape Hatteras — Evan G. Williams, Jr. of Avon, 15 years.

Carteret-Craven — David M. Chadwick of Rt. 2, Beaufort, 20 years and Roger W. Jones of Rt. 1, Newport, 30 years.

Crescent — Floyd Morrow of Rt. 10, Statesville, Paul L. Stroud, Rt. 1, Mocksville and Henry Gabriel of Rt. 1, Sherrills Ford, all for 15 years. Shirley Johnson of Rt. 14, Statesville, 25 years and W. B. Renegar of Rt. 6, Mocksville, 40 years.

Edgecombe-Martin County — W. Kitchin Benson, 20 years.

Halifax EMC — C. P. Pope of Rt. 2, Macon, 15 years.

Jones-Onslow — Archie D. Horne of Rt. 2, Beulaville, 15 years.

Piedmont — H. B. Pailey of Rt. 5, Roxboro, 30 years.

Randolph — James H. Garner of Rt. 2, Robbins, 15 years and Dolan G. Surratt of Rt. 3, Denton, 20 years.

Rutherford — W. L. Plonk of Rt. 1, Kings Mountain, 15 years and Fred Mintz, Sr. of Rt. 1, Lawndale, 35 years.

South River — Charles Collier of Rt. 1, Linden, 15 years; E. E. Fisher of Rt. 1, Stedman, 25 years and Kesler C. Butler of Rt. 7, Fayetteville, 40 years.

Surry-Yadkin — Ralph W. Beane of Rt. 1, State Road, 30 years and Joe Pendry of Rt. 1, Bonnvile, 40 years.

Tideland — Malvin Respass of Rt. 2, Pantego and Vernon Canady of Pantego, 15 years.

Tri-County — Howard A. Hardy of Rt. 4, Kinston, 25 years.

"Complete Phase-Out" (Continued from Page 9)

Rural electric leaders can bring changes in the proposed REA budget cuts if they'll organize strong, direct contacts with members of Congress, according to Stevenson Walker, director of government relations services for the Public Affairs Council in Washington.

Moore Re-elected To NRECA Board

A director of Pitt and Greene Electric Membership Corporation, Farmville, has been re-elected to a seat on the Board of Directors of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, representing North Carolina's rural electric co-ops.

Horace Moore, of Snow Hill who has been on the Pitt and Greene EMC board since 1968, will be serving his fifth term on the board of the national association, which represents about 1,000 electric co-ops across the country.

Moore, a past president of the statewide EMC organization, is executive secretary of the N.C. Fireman's Association.



Walker

In addressing the luncheon for members of the Rural Electric Action Program, Walker said special interest groups are mobilizing to present their views of the Reagan administration's economic package to Congress.

"I think we're in for a long, tough battle and one that, on the issue of REA financing, can be modified in your favor, if you do more than just complain about it," said Walker.

"In other words, contact your Congressman with a good, strong letter about how you feel.

"I think today, members of Congress are listening to their constituents more than any other time in history."

High Marks For Sen. Baker

In assessing current leadership in Congress, he gave high marks to Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker, saying the Tennessee Republican has done "a masterful job in pulling together the various philosophies in the Republican Party, ranging from Sen. Mark Hatfield of Oregon to Sen. Jesse Helms."

On the Democratic side, he said, Sen. Robert Byrd is not the leader the

party needs.

"He's not the charismatic leader the Democrats need to pull themselves back up."

Walker predicted that Speaker of the House Thomas (Tip) O'Neill will retire after his current term, saying the Massachusetts Democrat has not been a powerful speaker.

New Leadership Emerging

Moving to fill the current vacuum of leadership in the Senate, and consequently positioning themselves for White House bids in 1984, Walker said, are: Sen. Edward Kennedy, Sen. John Glenn ("He's running for President as hard as he can.") and Sen. Gary Hart.

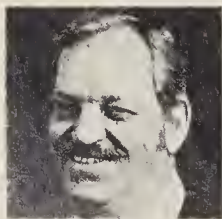
The statewide meeting features sessions by all three corporations comprising the statewide organization: N.C. Association of Electric Cooperatives (N.C. AEC), Tarheel Electric Membership Association (TEMA) and N.C. EMC.

N.C. AEC is the overall trade organization, while TEMA is a central purchasing and materials supply operation serving the EMCs. N.C. EMC is the power supply arm of the organization.

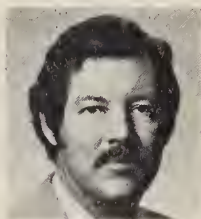
In the N.C. EMC session, special ceremonies marked the recent completion of arrangements for the EMC's purchase of a share in Duke Power Company's Catawba Nuclear Station.

TEMA President Re-elected

Managers of Electric Membership Corporations headquartered in Red Springs, Asheboro and Enfield have been elected officers of the statewide EMC organization's central purchasing and materials supply operation.



Hinson
President



McDuffie
Vice President



Ellen
Secretary-Treasurer

Derl Hinson, manager of Lumbee River EMC, Red Springs, was re-elected president of Tarheel Electric Membership Association (TEMA). The South Carolina native has been manager at the co-op since 1974.

Bob L. McDuffie, manager of Randolph EMC, Asheboro, was elected vice president and James Ellen, manager of Halifax EMC, Enfield, was elected secretary-treasurer.

McDuffie served as TEMA's secretary-treasurer in 1979-80.

Ellen, a veteran of 29 years with Halifax EMC, became the co-op's manager in July, 1978.

In addition, three new directors were elected to TEMA's eight-member board.

They are John R. Austin of Rt. 4, Boone, president of the Board of Directors of Blue Ridge EMC, Lenoir; Horace Moore of Snow Hill, a director of Pitt and Greene EMC, Farmville and Hugh L. Batts of Rt. 1, Hampstead, a director of Jones-Onslow EMC, Jacksonville.



Horn

Carl Horn Jr., Duke's chairman of the board and chief executive officer, described the arrangement as having provided Duke with "a quantum contribution to internal cash generation at a time when the company is coping with heavy financial pressures."

Catawba Deal In Public Interest

"I think what you did, you'll be glad you did. It's in the public interest, it's in the best interest of our state and its economic future."

He continued: "We are glad that the days of squabbling over customers and segments of line are over. We regret the time that we wasted on doctrinaire squabbles. We need to and we certainly are ready to put our shoulders to the wheel to see that there's an adequate supply of electric energy."

"We look forward to being your partner in the generation of electricity."

Horn spoke of the future of the electric utility industry in grim terms, though he expressed hope that the economic picture will improve.

"Assuming continuation of the present picture, with double digit inflation and interest rates—and we are the heaviest borrowers in any major industry category—the investor-owned utilities by 1990 are going to run out of borrowing power."

What would help more than anything would be to get our borrowing rates and inflation back down to single digits, he said.

Dr. Margaret Maxey, assistant director of the South Carolina Energy Research Institute, posed questions to the opening luncheon audience on the nation's ethical responsibilities in the area of energy.

The real issue here, she said, is, What kind of moral obligation do we perceive that this nation has in relation to the rest of the world?

He added: "If we were really concerned about the energy needs of the world, we would stop importing. We are forcing the Third and Fourth World nations into economic collapse because they don't have the option of paying the high prices for oil. The seeds of the Third World War

Batten To Lead REAP Committee

The manager of the Whiteville district office of Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation, Shallotte, has been elected to the top leadership post in the Rural Electric Action Program Committee.

David J. Batten of Rt. 2, Whiteville, will serve for the coming year as chairman of the organization, which is a political action group composed of employees and directors of the state's EMCs.

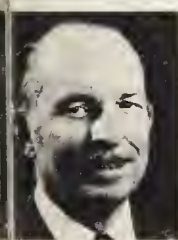
Also elected were Ann Curren, manager of office services at Wake EMC, Wake Forest, vice chairman and Frank Thorne, director of operations and engineering of Halifax EMC, Enfield, secretary-treasurer.

are in our continuation of importing oil!"

Other key speakers at the meeting were C. C. Hope Jr., vice chairman of the board of First Union National Bank in Charlotte; William C. Wise, a Washington attorney who is a former deputy administrator of REA and Peter D. Hart, nationally-recognized pollster, who reviewed findings from a recent survey he conducted on consumers' attitudes toward rural electrification in North Carolina.

Rice Takes N.C. EMC Reins

The managers of Electric Membership Corporations headquartered in Statesville, Dunn and Monroe have been elected officers of the statewide EMC organization's power generating and transmission operation.



Rice
President



Marshall
Vice President



Wally
Secretary-
Treasurer

Donald D. Rice, manager of Crescent EMC, Statesville, was elected president of North Carolina EMC after serving as vice president for the past year.

Marvin Marshall, manager of South River EMC, Dunn, was elected vice president and Philip L. Wally, manager of Union EMC, Monroe, was elected secretary-treasurer.

Rice is a veteran of 34 years in North Carolina's rural electric program, having begun his career with Pamlico-Beaufort EMC, Grantsboro, before that co-op became part of Tideland EMC.

Marshall, who served as N.C. EMC's secretary-treasurer for the past year, is a past president of the N.C. Association of Electric Cooperatives. He has been manager of South River EMC since 1968.

Wally, a former district manager at Crescent EMC, has been Union EMC's manager since July, 1978. He served for the past year as secretary-treasurer of the statewide EMC organization's materials supply operation.

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Bulk Barns: Still Saving Money After All These Years

It's been 20 years since the first bulk curing barn was placed on a North Carolina tobacco farm.

It was on the Stone Brothers farm near Lumberton in Robeson County.

In 1980, about 40,377 bulk barns were in use across the state. They cured about 70 percent of the bright leaf produced on Tar Heel farms last year, according to Rupert Watkins, extension agricultural engineer at N.C. State University.

Major Step Forward

The bulk curer was a major step forward in tobacco harvest mechanization. It cuts labor needs by 50 to 100 hours per acre and substantially reduces the number of workers needed for the harvest.

The state's 1980 flue-cured crop was produced on 373,000 acres. If the leaf from 70 percent of those acres was bulk cured and the average saving was 75 hours per acre, total labor saved would have amounted to 19.5 million hours.

Assuming an overall average wage rate of \$3.50 per hour for tobacco harvest workers, the savings in labor would have amounted to more than \$68 million.

Dr. F. J. Hassler, an agricultural engineer with the N.C. Agricultural Research Service, was project leader for research that led to the development of bulk curing. It was in the early 1950s that Hassler and his associates began basic investigations of the tobacco leaf and the leaf curing process at the Federal-State Tobacco Research Station at Oxford.

As the work proceeded, Hassler—now head of NCSU's Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering—became convinced that tobacco could be cured in bulk with no loss in quality. At the time, most people believed otherwise.

First Cure In 1956

In 1956, the researchers cured a batch of tobacco in bulk, with highly satisfactory results.

A Raleigh newspaper headlined the development, "Tobacco Cured Without Sticks in Oxford Tests." The story received widespread attention in this country and was reprinted in Rhodesia, Canada and elsewhere.

The curing space in a bulk barn is much smaller than that in a conventional log or frame barn, and less fuel is needed for the curing. Temperature, humidity and air movement can be controlled more precisely. As a result, the cured tobacco has a much more uniform appearance and quality.

The bulk curer may be used regardless of whether the tobacco is harvested by hand, with a riding-type harvester, or with a mechanical harvester.

Big boxes, rather than racks, are being used with many bulk curers today. When the boxes are used, the catch bins on mechanical harvesters and the racking operation at the barn are eliminated. This represents "the ultimate in labor saving," Watkins says.

Wood Fuel Tested

Meanwhile, Dr. C. W. Sugan, an engineer with the N.C. Agricultural Research Service, is testing wood as a source of heat for bulk barns. The firebox is attached snugly against the barn on the furnace side. Results have been encouraging.

Last year several farmers experimentally cured bulk barns of tobacco with hot water, and they were well satisfied with the results. This type of curing was the advantage of being highly flexible, since water can be heated with coal, wood, oil, gas or any other available fuel.

Thousands of frame and log-type curing barns have dotted the rural landscape in North Carolina since the latter part of the 19th century, but now their days appear to be numbered. Few if any new ones are being built. Those now existing will be converted to other uses or simply be allowed to deteriorate.

Tips for Improving Energy Efficiency

Tar Heel tobacco farmers who're interested in improving the energy efficiency of their bulk curing barns can do so simply by "tightening up" the standard units, according to Rupert Watkins, extension agricultural engineering specialist at N.C. State University.

Watkins offered these recommendations for saving energy in tobacco curing:

- Harvest only ripe tobacco, to shorten curing time by one day or longer on many farms.
- Stop hot air leaks. Check door gaskets and structural cracks. Even a small crack in the lower or pressure side of a bulk barn loses the cement pad or foundation. A quarter-inch crack 15 feet long between cement pad and building may lose as much as 10 percent of the air and heat.
- Ventilate only enough to hold humidity down. The wider the vent opening, the more fuel is required.
- Add insulation. Well-insulated walls, roof and floor may save as much as 75 gallons of fuel per cure.
- Load racks or boxes uniformly. Uniform loading, with no tight or loose areas, assures even drying, better quality, quicker "kill-out," and less energy usage.
- Assure an air seal around each rack or box. Research has shown that a half-inch crack between boxes reduces ventilating efficiency by 50 percent. That is, half the air goes through the crack and half goes through the box of tobacco.
- Tune up the fuel burner. Both oil and gas burners require regular maintenance and adjustment for efficient operation. Fuel dealers usually have the proper instruments and know-how for this job.

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Population Growth Eating Up State's "Elbow Room"

North Carolinians are using up their "elbow room" at a faster clip than their ancestors.

Preliminary census figures show the state added about 15 people per square mile between 1970 and 1980, and more people are on the way.

Dr. Selz C. Mayo, head of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at North Carolina State University, says if current trends continue, "we'll have about 24 more people per square mile by 1990."

Mayo, who has followed population trends for over 40 years, says North Carolina added more people during the decade of the 70s than during any decade in history.

Preliminary figures indicate the state's population went from 5,082,059 in 1970 to 5,842,100 in 1980, for a gain of 760,041.

Mayo calls the 70s the "turnaround decade" for North Carolina. That is, more people moved into the state than left it, which is a reverse of what had happened in earlier decades.

If fact, about one-third of the increase between 1970 and 1980 was due to "net migration." The remaining two-thirds came from natural increase or the number of births over deaths.

Only five counties in the state — Halifax, Hertford, Jones, Northhampton and Pasquotank — lost population during the 70s. Over 30 counties lost population during the two preceding decades.

To put population changes in perspective, Mayo pointed out that North Carolina did not reach its first million people until 1870. The second million was added by 1910, the third million by 1930, fourth million by 1950 and fifth million by 1970.

"We will likely reach our sixth million in 1982 and our seventh million by the end of this decade," he said.

Each additional million means about 20 more people per square mile, and the population density of North Carolina is already twice the national average.

Mayo said the state's population is more spread out than the population of most states. "We don't have tremendous numbers of people piled up in huge urban centers. Instead, we have 'string towns' along our all-weather roads."

The NCSU sociologist believes the growth in population "has created a need as never before for outstanding leadership in both the public and private sectors."

"We're going to have tremendous pressure on land resources and on community facilities and services. We'll need more food and fiber than ever, yet some agricultural commodities may be pushed out entirely."

Mayo said North Carolina already has twice the population density of Iowa, another major farming state. It has two and half times the density of Texas, four times the density of Kansas and five times the density of Nebraska.

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Country Kitchen



SHRIMP MELT

This delightful recipe is perfect for a spring or summer brunch, and if you're rushed for time, it's simple to prepare. Dennis suggests serving it with a mixed green salad or a spinach salad with either fresh broccoli with lemon butter or a head of cauliflower with butter and parmesan cheese sprinkled on it. For dessert, fresh fruit or ice cream with fruit is the perfect ending for a delicious brunch.

COUNTRY KITCHEN RECIPE

Submitted by Dennis Cudd of Charlotte

SHRIMP MELT

1-1½ lb. cooked, shelled shrimp
1-1½ lb. grated medium cheddar cheese
2 Tbl. grated onion
1 tsp. parsley

1 tsp. dill weed
Salt and pepper to taste
Mayonnaise (not salad dressing)
English muffins

Use equal amounts of shrimp and cheese. Use small shrimp if possible; if you use large shrimp, chop them slightly. Mix all ingredients together with enough mayonnaise to hold the mixture together. Spread about two tablespoons on halves of English muffins. Bake at 350° until the cheese melts and is bubbly. Serves 10-12. Increase amounts proportionally for more people, with two halves per person.

If you would like to share a recipe with this column, send it to: CAROLINA COUNTRY, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611. We pay \$5. for published recipes and present each monthly winner a set of 50 recipe cards with the winning recipe printed on them.

Invest A Little, Save A Lot

This energy conservation feature was prepared by the Office of Public Affairs of the U.S. Department of Energy.

These energy-saving suggestions cost less than \$5, but together they can save \$20 to \$30 per year in homes with gas water heaters, and \$45 to \$70 with electric heaters.

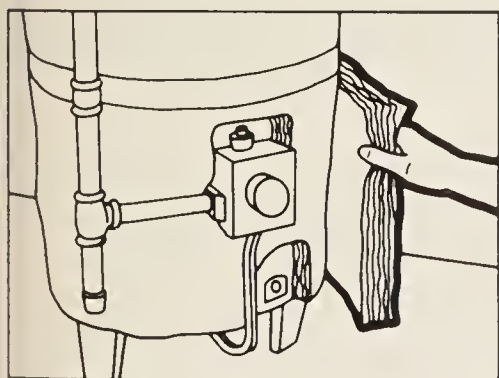
These savings are based on cost of 5 cents per kilowatt hour for electricity and 37 cents per therm for gas.

Cutting Your Losses Off at the Tank

A good way to save money is to add an extra layer of insulation around the outside of the water heater tank to cut heat loss. This should save \$20 a year for electric water heaters, and about \$10 a year for gas.

You can buy enough regular foil-backed insulation and tape to do this job for less than \$5.

Wrap the insulation so that it completely encircles the tank and also covers the top. It goes around the tank like gift wrapping on a package — the shiny foil on the outside. Seal the seams with duct tape. A circle can be cut for the top and attached to the insulation on the sides of the tank with tape.



Cover all exposed surfaces of the tank, except for certain critical areas that must be left free to "breathe."

On electric water heaters it is best not to cover the drain faucet, the thermostat access panel, or the relief valve that comes out of the top of the tank.

On gas water heaters, a crucial warning must be heeded: Do not

cover air inlets, pipes, controls, relief valves, or the flue at the top of the heater.

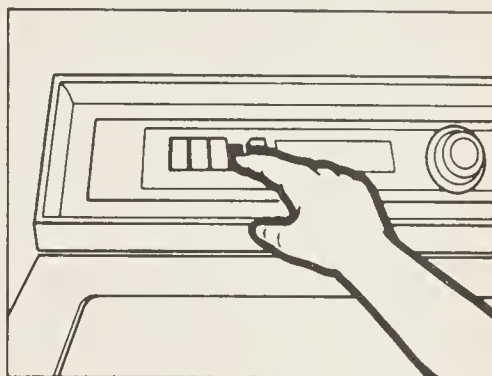
If you are unsure about the various crucial openings on gas and oil water heaters, you can buy a manufactured insulation jacket kit with holes pre-cut for the critical areas. It is also important that the insulation be affixed to the tank so that it can't slip and cover the openings later. A mistake here could cause a fire or even an explosion.

Cooling the Wash

A switch to lower temperature on the washing machine can have a major impact on utility bills.

It takes about 35 gallons of water to do a full wash and rinse, or about 17 gallons for each cycle. How much of that water is hot depends on which button you push. A hot wash and warm rinse combination, the highest setting on most machines, requires 25 gallons of hot water. A load a day on such a setting, for electric water heaters, could easily cost \$100 a year.

Changing the rinse water to cold, which experts say does not affect the results of the wash, will save eight of those gallons per day, or \$25 a year. By changing the wash setting from hot to warm, you could save another \$25. If you have a gas water heater, the savings would be \$10 a year for each strategy.



To increase the savings even further, use a cold water detergent, and wash and rinse with cold water. You may be well satisfied with the cleaning results.

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EMC ANNUAL MEETINGS CALENDAR..



Date	Electric Membership Corporation	Time	Location
June 13	Blue Ridge, Lenoir	Registration: 8-10 a.m. Business Meeting: 10 a.m. - 12 noon	Ashe Central High School, Jefferson
20	Piedmont, Hillsborough	Registration and Entertainment: 7:30 p.m. Business Meeting: 8 p.m.	Orange High School
July 17	Randolph, Asheboro	Registration: 6:30 p.m. Business Meeting: 8 p.m.	Lee J. Stone Auditorium, Asheboro High School

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Case Van Staalduinien: The Last of a Vanishing Breed

Dutch Immigrant Stays With Tulip Farming, Despite the Obstacles

Case Van Staalduinien reached down and plucked a bright red tulip.
"These are the only ones still in bloom," he commented. "We finished topping the others yesterday. We were afraid the cold snap would get them."

The row of tulips, flecked with glossy reds and blues and yellow and purple, stretched a quarter of a mile across the flat earth before being halted by a strand of pine trees.

The soil under Van Staalduinien's feet was rich and black, so rich it will sometimes catch fire and burn if you strike a match to it.

Though slight, Van Staalduinien's accent was unmistakably Dutch.

The minister of the neat white frame church down the road from Van Staalduinien's farm is the Rev. Van Derheid. Van Staalduinien's other neighbors have Dutch names. Van Dorp. Van Wyk. Stoop.

A tulip field in Holland? No.

Van Staalduinien's farm is near Terra Ceia in Beaufort County in Eastern North Carolina, where Van Staalduinien has lived most of his fifty years.

Van Staalduinien was just nine when his father gathered up the family and left the Netherlands, hoping to emigrate to the United States. That was in 1939.

The Van Staalduinien family first lived in Canada because they could not get immediate permission to enter the United States.

When the family finally arrived in Beaufort County, they were met by friends. There was already a sizable Dutch colony in Beaufort and neighboring Hyde County. Some Dutch people had lived in the area since the early 1930s, drawn by the similarities of the land to that of their native Holland.

Beaufort and Hyde Counties, like Holland, have fertile soil, and, also like Holland, are close to the sea. Then, too, the U.S. government had announced a scheme to drain Lake Mattamuskeet and make the rich lakebed available for farming. This was something the Dutch people could understand. Much of their homeland had been reclaimed from the sea.

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The plan to drain the huge lake never materialized. But still, the industrious Dutch soon had large tulip farms all over the area. The Dutch also quickly earned the respect of their neighbors and became an accepted part of the area; they gave "New Holland" in Hyde County its name. They also gave "Terra Ceia" its name. It is Latin for heavenly earth."

"At one time, there were as many as thirty large tulip farms around here," Van Staaldhuizen said. "But now, we have the only one left."

Van Staaldhuizen said one reason so many people have dropped out of the tulip-growing business is that the labor is hard to find.

"People just don't want to do stoop work anymore," he explained.

And the business is uncertain. Fortunes rise and fall with such vagaries as the weather.

"One year, I do real well," said Van Staaldhuizen. "Then the next year, I lose money."

Then there is always the chance of a blight. In recent years, a fungus similar to the blue mold that has plagued tobacco farmers has showed up in some of Van Staaldhuizen's plants. Van Staaldhuizen said other things, including tax laws, discourage farming.

"Uncle Sam is always looking over your shoulders," he remarked.

"But don't misunderstand me," he quickly added. "I don't deny I make a good living. Americans complain a lot, but we still have the best country on earth."

Approximately a third of Van Staaldhuizen's 600 acres is used for growing tulips and other flowers, including daffodils, peonies, Dutch irises and hyacinths. He grows soybeans and corn on the rest of his land.

He sells the bulk of his flowers in North Carolina and neighboring states, but he does some business all over the country.

Why does he continue in the business when so many other people have dropped out?

Van Staaldhuizen said, "I guess it's a knack. It's probably tradition, too. I grew up with it."

Van Staaldhuizen said the soil in Beaufort and Hyde counties is ideally suited for growing flowers.

"It is rich in organic material," he said.

To illustrate that point, he sifted through a pile of "reject" he had brought from the Texas Gulf Sulphur plant at nearby Aurora. It wasn't long before Van Staaldhuizen retrieved several large fossilized shark teeth and pieces of whale bone from the project. The reject is what is left over from Texas Gulf Sulphur's phosphate mining operations and Van Staaldhuizen puts it on the driveway at home.

Van Staaldhuizen observed that the reject came from an area that is now many miles from the ocean.

Some people say the ocean once covered the earth," he commented. "It depends on whether you believe in evolution or whether you believe the good Lord did it in seven days."

He held up a large fossilized shark's tooth and added, "I just don't know . . ."

—Conrad Paysour

"People just don't want to do stoop work anymore," says Case Van Staaldhuizen of Beaufort County. His tulip farm is the last of its kind in an area which once supported up to 30 such farms.



By 7 Tar Heel Congressmen

Reagan Asked To "Reconsider" REA Proposa

Seven members of the North Carolina Congressional delegation have called on President Reagan to "carefully reconsider" the proposal to discontinue funding of Rural Electrification Administration guaranteed loans through the Federal Financing Bank (FFB).

In a letter to the President, the lawmakers pointed out that the bank was established during a previous Republican administration and has been "a welcome and effective fiscal

tool for coordinating federal and federally-assisted agency entries into the private money market."

The proposed cutoff of FFB financing for cooperatives could be accomplished through a White House executive order without prior approval by Congress.

The letter noted that rural electric cooperatives in North Carolina and across the country are "sound business entities" which are owned and operated by the people they serve and which have a loan repayment record that is "absolutely unparalleled."

In addition, since loans made through the FFB to the co-ops are at the prevailing U.S. Treasury rate plus one-eighth of one percent service fee, it operates "at no cost to the federal government" and, in fact, the agency "realizes a profit on the money it provides to fund the REA guarantees."

It concluded:

"Denying REA borrowers access to the FFB will certainly in no way benefit

the government, but it will definitely burden the rural electric co-ops with higher interest rates and increased operating costs. Denying REA access to the FFB would not be in keeping with your goal of spurring sound business investment.

"In addition, the bottom line of increasing capital costs for electric co-ops would be substantially higher electric rates for the consumers of rural America. This is not consistent with your goal of reducing inflation

"Therefore, we respectfully urge you to carefully reconsider the proposal to discontinue funding REA guaranteed loans through FFB."

The letter, which was circulated to all members of the Tar Heel delegation, was signed by Rep. Andrews, Rep. L. H. Fountain, Rep. G. (Bill) Hefner, Rep. Walter B. Jones, Rep. Stephen Neal, Rep. Charles R. and Rep. Charles Whitley.

“

Denying REA borrowers access to the Federal Financing Bank. . . will definitely burden the rural electric co-ops with higher interest rates and increased operating cost.”



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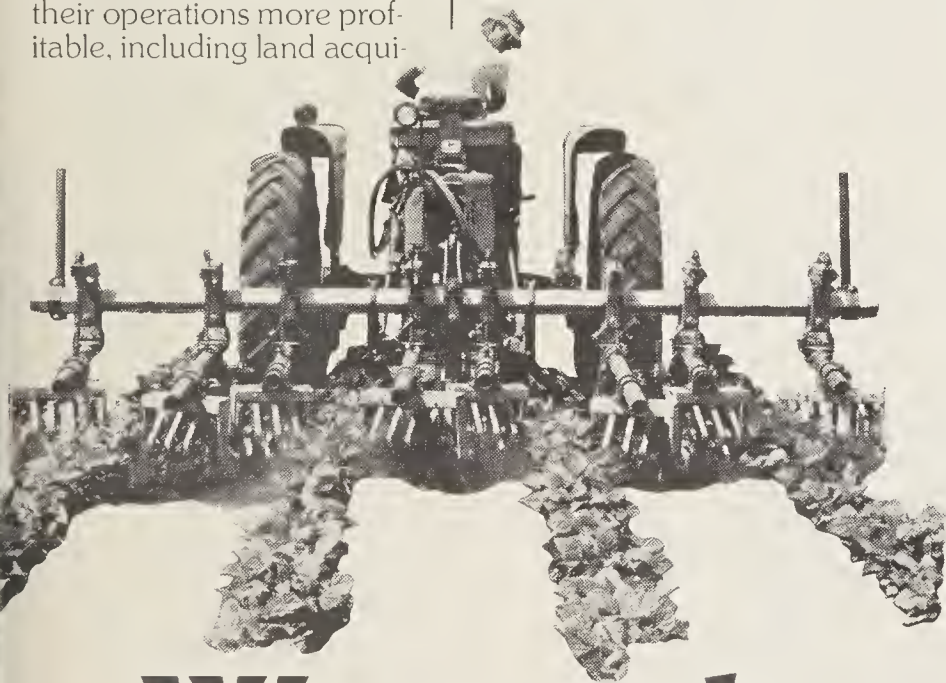
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Books



Season of the Owl by Miles Wolff Jr.
Stein & Day. 181 pages. \$10.95.

This is a charming first novel about a youngster growing up (for one year, at least) with a minor league baseball club as a backdrop.

It tells a story of North Carolina as it was a couple of decades ago, when such teams as the Centerville Owls flourished in our state.

The book has a mystery subplot, with a not-too-surprising conclusion, involving a murder done with an iron pipe.

Tommy, 14, and his Uncle Will are the principal actors in the author's drama, but the main impression you receive is the degree of good clean fun that a bicycle-riding youngster can have just going to school, living with his uncle, and hanging around and helping the Centerville Owls.

The good writing and baseball backdrop come naturally to Miles Wolff Jr.

He is the president of the Durham Bulls, itself a minor league club, and was raised in a writing family. His father is the retired executive editor of the *Greensboro Daily News*—and one of the best of the species.

The euphoric atmosphere in these 181 pages is not spoiled at all by some unpleasant racial incidents at the rundown Centerville ball park, or even by the fact that the murder involves Tommy's rather surly father, who deserted him and his mother years before this narrative.

One point is bound to be raised about this book: Is Centerville actually Durham, and are the Owls actually the Bulls?

Even though the Centerville Owls play the Durham Bulls, even forfeiting one game to them because of riotous conduct, you can guess that Centerville is Durham. Stores have branches in Chapel Hill and people run over to Raleigh.

But, no matter. *Season of the Owl* is good reading, anything but heavy in nature, and we may hope that the author, will score another literary "double" or "triple" his next time at bat.

—Frank Jeter Jr.



"Merger" Proposed

One of the speakers at the recent Annual Meeting of the statewide EMC organization took note of a new proposal coming out of the federal bureaucracy that's somehow escaped the attention of the news media.

"They're thinking of merging the Chrysler Corporation with New York City. That way, the Big Apple will become the Big Lemon!" he said.

A Great Idea That Needs A Little Work

Speaking of New York City, the place can add yet another distinction to its list of unique attractions.

In addition to the usual assortment of special telephone numbers for such things as time, weather, sports scores, etc., New York City can claim the services of "Mr. Apology."

That's the name of a phone service offered by an artist who believes people need a ready outlet for stored guilt, especially when they're unable or afraid to apologize to the wronged person directly.

By dialing his 24-hour service, callers can pour out their apologies for the artist's automatic tape recorder—without fear of reproach.

Sounds wierd, I know, but let's not dismiss this out of hand. The fellow may have struck upon a great idea that just needs a little work.

Imagine, for example, the untold benefits we could all derive from a similar service called "Mr. Grump," if we could arrange for certain associates to phone in their daily grouching instead of delivering it in person.

Here are other possibilities:

- "Mr. Intimidation"—This service would be ideal for the

Casper Milquetoasts of the world who just can't play today's interpersonal intimidation games with real, live people. It could also serve as a training ground for the practitioner who wants to polish up his intimidation techniques before putting them into practice.

- "Mama's Apron Strings"—At last, we'd have somewhere to turn for comfort in those moments when we're suffering from the emotional "skinned knees" of adulthood. With a built-in sound track of motherly clicks and murmurs, this service would provide callers with a soothing new technological peck-on-the-cheek. This could give such a boost to the American psyche that Ma Bell herself ought to offer the service in the national interest.

- "Mr. Ego"—Just what every egomaniac has been waiting for: a vehicle for unrestrained singing of his own praises, without interruption or contradiction. Instant replays could be offered at no extra charge. A natural promotional tie-in would be the marketing of self-praise tapes, with each regular subscriber receiving a free recording of "It's Hard To Be Humble" by Reggie Jackson.

—Owen Bishop

Those Wonderful Cliches: They're Always In Style

Aren't cliches wonderful? You can find one to find almost any situation or mood.

As a journalist, though, I'm supposed to hate them. And I do, really. It's just that they're so much fun. I like to use them the most when I'm around other journalists—drives them crazy. They're afraid that if they hear them from me, they'll eventually start using them when they talk. And if they use them when they talk, they're afraid that sooner or later, they'll start using them when they write. And that, they think, would be terrible. I agree.

An editor friend of mine recently gave me this line when I flashed a

cliche at her in conversation: "I used to use cliches like they were going out of style, but now I wouldn't touch one with a ten-foot-pole." She broke out into a grin, too. Very pleased with herself. I thought it was a pretty good line and told her that I'd use it myself one day. To that she said, "What ever turns you on." Now she was really grinning. Beating me at my own game, she was.

"Cliches are all alike," she said. "You see one, you've seen them all. They all come out of the same mold."

"That's telling it like it is," I shot back. "But I think they broke the mold when they made some of them. Still, when you think about it, they're better than nothing. When it comes to cliches or no cliches, I think using them is the lesser of two evils."

"I know what you mean," she said. "The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. But whether or not you can quit using them is no skin off my nose. Know what I mean? Better you than me, anyway. For some people, getting a point across using cliches is like taking candy from a baby, but for others its like pulling teeth. I believe, though, that if you really left them alone, you'd eventually quit using them. You know, out of sight, out of mind."

"Fools never learn," I responded. "Sometimes cliches are worth their weight in gold, the salt of the Earth, and other times they're not worth a plug nickel. It seems like only yesterday when I began to use them."

"If the shoe fits, wear it," she said. "But for my money, cliches are no good. When someone wants me to use one, I say 'no dice.' I realize that some go the point straight as an arrow, but others are like buying a pig in a poke."

"You're right as rain," I acknowledged. "I really have some good ones to pass along, they're right off the tip of my tongue, but I can't get them out. I guess I should send this whole column packing."

"That would be like throwing the baby out with the bathwater," she said. "Go ahead and print the column, but in the future cool it with the cliches. I hate that it took you so long to come around to it, but better late than never. It's the bottom line that counts."

—Kemp Ward



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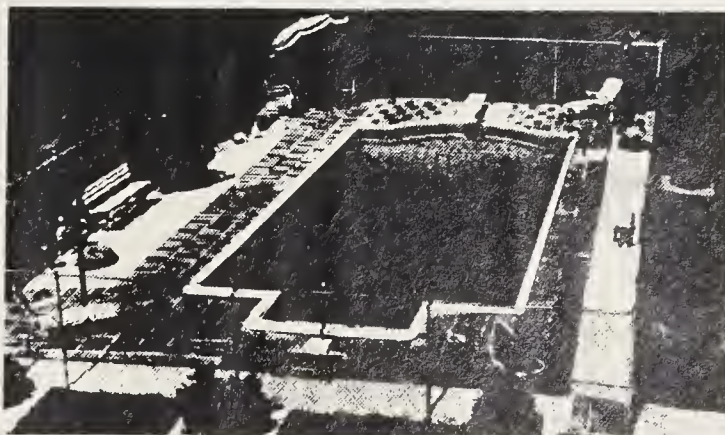
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